

Coming Events on the Cliff

Wednesday, July 23 - Art Exhibition
Opens 5:30 to 7:30 CD member Jim
Smith and Sculptor Sharon Bladhorn.

Friday, July 25 - *Jazz à la falaise*
Chicago's Chanteuse Claudia
Hommel sings a Jazzy French
reunion concert with Broadway star
Johnny Rodgers.

Saturday, July 26 - Cliff Dwellers
Book Club - Edna Ferber's *So Big*.

Thursday July 31: Cuban Dinner
followed by CD Member Larry
Okrent "A Pictorial Tour of Cuba, 55
Years after the Revolution."

Friday, August 8: Cultural Mile's
2nd Friday Program featuring
renowned Brazilian Guitarist
Paulinho Garcia. And the CD's
Annual South of the Border Dinner.

Tuesday, August 12: Dinner & Book
Signing/Presentation by Richard
Fizdale - *999: A History of Chicago in
Ten Stories*

Saturday, August 16: Saturday at
the Movies: *The Belly of an Architect*

Saturday, August 23: Cliff Dwellers
Book Club - Ronald H. Balson's *Once
We Were Brothers*

Wednesday, August 27: Dinner &
Book Signing/Presentation by James
Graham - *Victoria The Kennedys, A
Sail Boat & The Sea*

From the President

Dear Fellow Cliff Dwellers,

I am pleased to report that the
Club is in the best situation that it has
been in for many years, and that it is
well-positioned for further growth and
improvement.

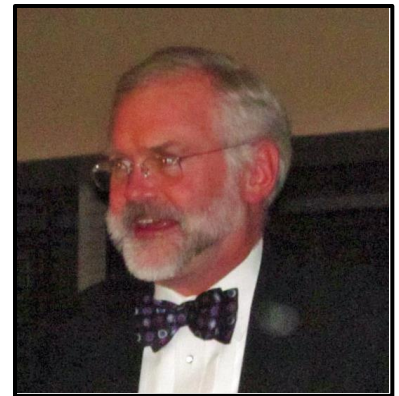
Two years ago, we renewed
our lease for another 15 years. One
year ago, we reopened after the most
extensive renovation in over 17 years. In spite of the uncertainty
surrounding our lease, and closing during the renovation, we had a
significant increase in membership last year and that trend continues,
with a net increase of 10 new members so far this calendar year.

Arts related programming has been expanded with the addition
of a book club, movie society and an upcoming evening music
performance series. We are participating in the Cultural Mile Second
Friday program. The Artist in Residence program is in the process of
being reinstated. Chef Victor has introduced a new "small plate"
appetizer menu and has plans to further update our menu selections. We
also have new outdoor lounge furniture on the deck, paid for by the
officers and members of the House Committee.

The biggest challenge that we continue to face is making better
use of the facilities and opportunities that the Club offers. How can you
help?

Please come and use the Club! Enjoy the lunchtime conversation
at the members' table, a fine meal with a guest, an evening cocktail on
the deck, or an arts related program. Invite friends to the Club and get
them started with a 3 month trial membership. I look forward to seeing
all of you again at the Kiva this summer!

Zivio,
Charles R. Hasbrouck, President of The Cliff Dwellers



The Cliff Dwellers Continues 2nd Friday Music Series

By Leslie Recht, CD'03

On Friday, July 11 The Cliff Dwellers again participated in the Chicago Cultural Mile's Second Friday event, with other cultural and business organizations along Michigan Avenue. Cliff Dwellers hosted a divine chamber music concert, presented by members of the Peter Jankovic Ensemble. On a perfect evening, we heard music for a string trio, with Maria Storm on violin, Amanda Grimm on viola, and Kyra Saltman on cello. The music ranged from a trio in B-flat major by Schubert, to a trio by Borodin based on a Russian folk song, and a trio by Beethoven. The intimate setting provided a chance to hear chamber music as it was intended. Two of the artists joined the Club's members and their guests for dinner after the performance.

2014 has been designated by the City as the year of the Chicago Cultural Mile, with museums, concert halls, historic buildings and private clubs from the Chicago River to Roosevelt Road and East to the Museum Campus all participating. The programs on each 2nd Friday are listed on the website at chicagoculturalmile.org.

On Friday, August 8, Cliff Dwellers will present Brazilian jazz guitarist Paulinho Garcia, with his extraordinary talent for intimate and romantic music. We will celebrate with a South of the Border buffet, and, of course, special summer drinks and appetizers. Please make a reservation and join us for this annual summer event.



Thirty members and guests were treated to a wonderful string trio performance at the Cultural Mile Second Friday event on July 11.

Three Chicago-based, internationally touring chamber musicians—Maria Storm, violin; Amanda Grimm, viola; and Kyra Saltman, cello—performed works by Beethoven, Schubert, Borodin, and others.

Dinner followed with a quick glimpse of the almost full moon.

Making House Calls

Paul Hamer, CD'05 House Committee Chair

We've been busy once again at the old House. Members have been great about letting us know what needs doing and we are very appreciative. We have been facing living within our means, as the board has been recommending. So, to that end we have been utilizing the talents of our members to take care of many of the jobs that might have been previously outsourced.

One of the tasks that we have been involved in is trying to improve the overall upkeep of the Club in order to live up to our worldwide reputation and to continue to make the club a dining destination where all members will be proud to bring their guests.

As such, at our last meeting, member Ted Wolff brought up the fact that our deck is without a doubt the best in the city, if not the urban world, and wouldn't it be great if more members would bring their guests to take advantage of this: to stop in for a drink or to dine al fresco with the panorama of beautiful Grant Park at their feet.

Ted, who is a fan of everything outdoors, lamented that we would miss a great revenue opportunity by letting another summer go by without upgrading our deck furniture to match the incredible new club interior.

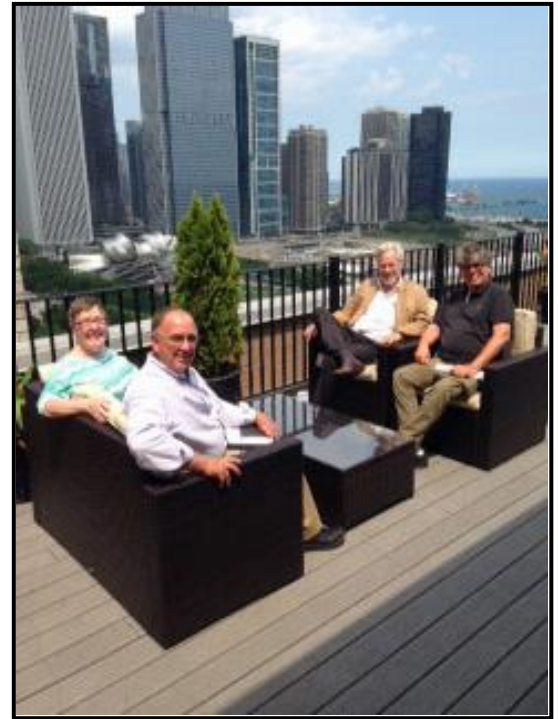
Someone piped up: "But Ted we have no budget for it!"

Ted sighed deeply, looked around the table at us with his well-known steely glare, then replied strongly: "That didn't stop Custer at Waterloo, it didn't stop the immortal Biggles at Gibraltar, and it sure didn't stop us when the Germans bombed Pearl Harbor! Darn it, I'll fund it myself!!!"

In retrospect none of us can really recollect if he said *darn*, but we all agreed we did hear *Free*.

Well, we were floored. We were in the presence of greatness. I know what you're thinking. No self-respecting Cliff Dweller will ever look *Free* in the face and turn it down. But folks, that's just what we did. Suddenly someone pulled out a checkbook and immediately wrote a contribution. Within minutes the rest of the members at the table reached for their checkbooks, and, unexpectedly, we had some new deck furniture. Word spread quickly among the membership and many others contributed within the week, and money is still coming in. It's July, but it was a blessed miracle of Christmas.

Please, everyone, take the time this summer to visit the deck and bring your guests and watch as it is transformed over the next few weeks thanks to Ted's leadership and the generosity of so many members. If you want to contribute please contact Vivian in the office and let her know that your contribution is to be directed to the deck furniture.



Cliff Dwellers Virginia Harding, Mike Deines, Ted Wolff, and Paul Hamer relax and enjoy a few minutes of conversation while sitting in the recently installed new deck furniture.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

MEMBERS WISHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO
ON AND OFF THE CLIFF

CAN SUBMIT STORIES, REFLECTIONS, ARTICLES, POEMS, PHOTOS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE ARTS TO
NEWSLETTER EDITOR MIKE DEINES by e--mail mjdeines@yahoo.com

Share Current, Past, and Future Stories about The Cliff Dwellers.

Our Friends in the Foyer, Club Portraits-Part 2: Getting to Know Our Past

By Mike Deines, CD'03

Robert Collyer



In 1859 Robert Collyer moved to Chicago where he was appointed Minister at Large for the First Unitarian Church. He was an immediate success in a city that would soon face the trials and challenges of the Civil War and the 1871 Great Chicago Fire which consumed both his church and his home.

Collyer was one of several significant Chicagoans committed to “uplifting” the city so that it more closely resembled older, more established centers of learning and culture such as Boston and Philadelphia. To that end, he became a founding member and the first president of the Chicago Literary Club in 1874. Their criteria for membership echo those of The Cliff Dwellers: one must have a literary bent; one must be a good fellow and companionable; and, one must contribute.

Though not a member of The Cliff Dwellers, Robert Collyer contributed significantly to the evolution of Chicago's literary societies which offered writers, intellectuals, and artists a much-needed sense of community, social opportunity, and a vision of what support for urban culture might become. Not surprisingly, over the years many Cliff Dwellers have been members of the Chicago Literary Club whose meetings are regularly held at our Club.

The portrait of Collyer in our possession was completed in 1897 by Percival De Luce and given to the Literary Club by Collyer in the same year.

Carter Harrison II

Carter Harrison, II. served The Cliff Dwellers as the Tenth President of the Club in 1929.

The 30th Mayor of Chicago Carter Harrison II, like his father, occupied that office for five terms in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. A popular mayor, Harrison, II's platform of progressive civic reform at the turn of the century appealed to the city's working class and his elite upbringing appealed to Chicago's affluent business and social community. During his twelve year tenure he took on the issues of the era with confidence and accomplishment guiding Chicago into its position as a major, modern, affluent American city.



After retiring from politics in 1915, Harrison continued to be involved in the life of Chicago. As a patron of the Arts he sponsored the development of many emerging artists, especially those who found an interest in the culture and geography of the Southwest. Also, at the urging of his wife, he donated to The Cliff Dwellers the gaur which looms over our entrance to the Cliff.

E. Martin Hennings, the portraitist for Carter Harrison II, was introduced to the Southwest on a trip sponsored by Harrison in 1917. He joined The Taos Society of Artists in 1924 and spent the remainder of his career painting the West including commissioned portraits of Navajo Indians for the Santa Fe Railroad.

Cliff Notes—

- Since our last publication 5 individuals interested in literature and the arts have become members of The Cliff Dwellers. We welcome them and look forward to their active participation in Club activities and events.

Jon Miller, Heather Ryan Lieberman, Charles Peterson, Jeremiah K. Reeves, Mark Wukas.

Additionally, a note of appreciation is extended to the following members who nominated these individuals:

Bill Locke, Charles Hasbrouck, John David Mooney, Walker Johnson, and Bill Drennan.

- **Friday, August 8:** Cultural Mile's Second Friday Program with Music and The Cliff Dweller's Annual South of the Border Dinner will feature renowned Brazilian Guitarist Paulinho Garcia, who will play two sets. The first set will be from 5:30 to 6:15. The second set will be from 6:30 to 7:30. There will be a \$5 cover charge for members and their guests. There will be a cash bar. The South of the Border Buffet Dinner - served starting at 6:15 will be an additional \$35. **Reservations are required for the South of the Border Buffet Dinner.**

- Bill Drennan found this announcement in a recent issue of *The Daily Herald*:



Egon Weiner--Pillar of Human Emotions is an exhibit of Weiner's works at the Koehnline Museum on the Oakton Community College Des Plaines campus now through Sept 19. Weiner (1906-1987) was a Cliff Dweller who designed the Chicago Landmark *Pillar of Fire*, a 33-foot-high, abstract bronze sculpture marking the origin of the 1871 Chicago Fire just west of the Loop which now stands in front of the Chicago Fire Academy. The Koehnline exhibit will include approximately 25 sculptures from the museum's permanent collection as well as recently discovered bronze, metal, and wooden pieces, along with about 30 large-scale photographs of Weiner's large outdoor sculptures. Egon Weiner (1906-1987) was born and trained in Vienna and came to the United States in 1938 to escape Nazi persecution.

- Among the many events at The Cliff Dwellers this summer have been several Art Openings. On June 24 we were treated with the opening of The Architecture Photography of Balthazar Korab. The speaker at the event was John Comazzi an Associate Professor of Architecture at the University of Minnesota where he teaches design studios and research seminars at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. Photo by George Gabauer.



- **Were we napping? Did we miss something phenomenal at the Cliff?**

On July 16 Dominic Johnson organized a Late Night Performance featuring excerpts from *3 Singers*, Erica Mott's ambitious techno-opera project. Combining live and recorded music, movement, and technology, *3 Singers* explores the role of women's rights in the textile industry through three different periods of global history.

The show was over the top!



Cliff Notes—

• **New Art Arrives**

Ruth Aizuss Migdal CD'13 is a new member of the Cliff Dwellers and was there when someone was needed to take over Christine Rojak's volunteer position curating the sculpture exhibits for the Club. She was offered the opportunity and accepted.

Ruth noted, "I find being a member very satisfying and am ready to contribute as much time and effort as I can and is welcome. I do enjoy the job. As a sculptor very active in Public Art, I thought we should have some larger sculptures on our deck as well as the small ones indoors along the lakefront windows.

What we can exhibit on the deck is limited by the size of the freight elevator and the physical and weather conditions on the deck. *Hearts--*bronze, cast, assembled—will be patinated by the rain, improving and deepening with the seasons.

Visitors are welcome at her ground floor studio at 3039 W. Carroll St. Call first, 773-807-5123.



• **Saving a Neighborhood. Building a Home.**

George Manning, CD '13 was featured in a June 29 Tribune article by Dawn Turner Trice depicting the restoration and rehabilitation of Austin Village on Chicago's West Side. In 1974 George, a classically trained pianist, pipe organist and university administrator, purchased and moved into a stucco cottage on Midway Park. However, just down the block was the property he truly fell in love with—a 6,000 square foot, three-story Queen Anne designed by architect Frederick R. Schock and built in 1891.

Its exterior appeared fairly sound, but the interior, like a number of mansions in the area, was a mess. George comments in the article, "It had about 50 cats living on the first floor, and the second floor had water damage, and the third floor was open to the elements." His real estate agent told him the "place will never be habitable." George bought the property, the dream, anyway.

In the ensuing decades, Austin Village was not immune to the issues of urban flight, crime, closing schools, and declining resources, but the residents gathered together to support each other and resist giving in. They became neighbors; the area became a community. During those 40 years George Manning rehabbed an "uninhabitable" disaster into "one of the area's landmark homes."

He eventually moved into his dream home on Midway Park. Trice describes his home today: "a first floor that's reminiscent of the lobby of an eloquent boutique hotel. It has a grand piano, one of four in the house, several sitting areas with chess sets and fine glassware, and an oak staircase whose wall has a painting of his parents. On the third floor is a ballroom."

George concluded, "When I look out the window at my neighbor's house, I am looking at my house. I care



about what is going on over there. It's the people who make this place a neighborhood—the people who continue to care, and who fight together. We may have come here for different reasons, but that's what keeps us here."

Well-said and well-done,
George.



Photos by Jose M. Osorio, Chicago Tribune